

ABSTRACT

A system recovery method and framework for backing up and restoring a system that cannot reboot. The framework defines a common process, environment, and syntax, whereby backup programs integrate with this framework by collecting and writing appropriate information to be used during system recovery in the proper format. The format is a System Information File, a text file that specifies the hard disk state of the system and the location of key partitions where key components of the operating system are located. The file also includes instructions for specifying programs to launch during the restore phase, and any commands that need to be run in error handling cases. The file also includes or references any additional drivers or files to copy to assist in the restore process. A framework for restoring is also provided, and includes reading the file to restore the disk partition state, creating a common environment, and configuring (initializing) the common environment. When the environment is configured, the programs specified in the file are run to restore the remainder of the system.